

LIFE Group Leader Handout

December 22, 2019

“Twas the Night Before Christmas (Pageant)

The Children of Island Christian Church and Pastor Mike O'Connor

Scripture--Luke 2:1-19

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Main Idea--What Will I Do with this Jesus who was Born?

This Jesus had a momentous mission--and fulfilled it

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

This Jesus predicted his death and resurrection and then made it happen

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31

This Jesus will come again in power and great glory

...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

Application--

What will you do with Jesus?

Just a bit of fun this week. Merry Christmas! -Suzie



Taxes - Top 10 Group Leader Tax Exemptions
(from smallgroups.com)

10. Guitar wear and tear (string allowance)
9. I donated my living room to the church.
8. \$15 for the gag gift given at Christmas
7. The new stereo system with surround sound to enhance the worship cds we use.
6. Kleenex - it's not a real small group meeting until someone cries.
5. \$500 to repair the carpet when the indoor campfire went bad.(Sounded good at the time)
4. All of the group members who count on you weekly for spiritual wisdom, thus qualifying technically as DEPENDENTS.
3. Any contributions you made to either your personal 401K plan or to the national Y2K panic.
2. Study guides depreciate in value over the course of the study, sometimes over the course of an evening.
1. A hot-tub for eight would make an ideal place to hold our small group.

Answering Machine

Top 10 actual messages left on a Small Group Leader's voicemail
(from smallgroups.com)

10. "Uh ... I'm not going to make it tonight. I've lost my American Express Card and can't leave home without it."
9. "I know I was supposed to bring the refreshments, but I forgot about making something for my daughter's bake sale at school and well..."
8. "My sister-in-law just dropped off her six kids with me and I was wondering if it would be OK to bring them along with me to group tonight..."
7. Singing "On the third day of Christmas my small group gave to me, stomach cramps and a temperature of 103"!
6. "Call from your apprentice: 'Was I supposed to lead group tonight or were you doing it?' "
5. "Since I take our regular-attendance covenant seriously, I'm definitely coming tonight. I'm hoping the group will lay hands on me for my contagious rash."
4. "I just pulled in the driveway for our small group meeting at the Jones' ...it looks pretty deserted ... what was it you said last week about the rapture ... "
3. "We're bringing our son's junior high hockey team over for group. Their game got cancelled. I'm sure you'll have something for them to do!"
2. "Absent group member: "I know group started 10 minutes ago, and I know you don't answer

the phone during small group, but could you have my wife call me..."

1. "Hi, sorry I couldn't talk with you directly, but I thought I'd tell you I'm bringing someone tonight to fill our open chair. Well, actually 15 somebodies. I met this biker gang who has nothing to do tonight ... "